

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
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SECDEF WASHDC
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CINCUSNAVEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UK MASS US

SUBJECT: PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW UK GUIDED
MISSILE ORDERS

1. MOD MAKE PUBLIC TODAY HMG'S DECISION TO ACQUIRE
FOUR GUIDED WEAPONS FOR THE ARMED SERVICES. TWO SYSTEMS
ARE BRITISH: (A) THE P3T AIR LAUNCHED ANTI-SHIP MISSILE
FOR THE RAF'S BUCCANEER AIRCRAFT AND MRCA TORNADO IDS
AIRCRAFT. THIS MISSILE WILL ALSO GO TO THE ROYAL NAVY
FOR ITS SEA HARRIERS; AND (B) A PROGRAM TO MAKE MAJOR
IMPROVEMENTS TO SEA DART, THE PRINCIPAL AREA AIR DEFENSE
SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE OF THE ROYAL NAVY. TWO SYSTEMS
ARE US: (A) TOW HELICOPTER ANTI-TANK MISSILE TO ARM
THE ARMY'S LYNX HELICOPTER; AND (B) THE SIDEWINDER AIM
9L SHORT RANGE AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE FOR THE RAF'S F-4S,
THE MRCA TORNADO ADV, AND THE RN'S SEA HARRIERS.

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2. IN HIS OPENING REMARKS ANNOUNCING THESE DECISIONS,
GILBERT (MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE) EMPHASIZED THAT
"THE INTENTION BEHIND THESE DECISIONS IS TO PROVIDE THE
ARMED SERVICES WITH ESSENTIAL WEAPON SYSTEMS AT A PRICE
WHICH CAN BE AFFORDED WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE
DEFENCE BUDGET; TO SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STANDARDISA-
TION WITH OTHER NATO COUNTRIES; TO ENSURE THAT THE

BRITISH GUIDED WEAPONS INDUSTRY IS GIVEN SUFFICIENT
DEVELOPMENT WORK WITH WHICH TO MAINTAIN ITS DESIGN
CAPABILITY; AND TO PROVIDE THE INDUSTRY WITH A BALANCED
PROGRAMME OF WORK COVERING BOTH DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION
EXTENDING WELL INTO THE 1980S."

STREATOR

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NNN

Message Attributes

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